

REASONS  
FOR THE  
CLERGY'S  
BEING  
EMPLOY'D  
IN THE  
GOVERNMENT.  
DRAWN

From the Great SERVICES done by them to this Nation in their Administration of CIVIL OFFICES, being a Vindication of her Majesty's Wisdom and Prudence in making the late Lord Bishop of Bristol (but now of London) Lord Privy-Seal, and appointing him First Plenipotentiary at Utrecht in the Negotiations of Peace. To whom this following Treatise is humbly Inscribed upon his Lordship's Return to England.

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The SECOND EDITION.

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— *Pietate gravem ac meritis si forte Virum quem  
Conspexere Silent* — Virg.

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ЭНИЗАЯ

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ИЧАСТ

TO THE  
Right REVEREND  
Father in G O D,  
*J* O H N,  
Lord Bishop of *London*.



H I S Following Tract  
is with all Humility  
Inscrib'd, by

*His Lordship's most  
Dutiful Presbyter and  
Obedient Servant  
JOHN GROOME.*

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Chaplain, George

John Groome

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# REASONS FOR THE CLERGY'S Being EMPLOY'D in the GOVERNMENT.

**N**ever was there a Time, when the Rights and Privileges of the Clergy needed more to be defended than at present, when the Devil is so very Laborious to vent his Spleen against Religion, and all the Instruments and Promoters of it; As is too plain from that Scandalous Fry of Heretical, Anti-christian, Atheistical \* Pamphlets and other Books, that are so plentifully Spawned and so industriously

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\* *The Rights of the Christian Church asserted, &c. Priestcraft in Perfection;* which have been answer'd by the Learnd Dr. Hicks, Mr. Hughs and others.

Propogated thro' all Parts of the Nation : Hence it comes to pass that the Clergy's Business being in a peculiar Manner to Stem the Tide, against such Impious Abettors of all Prophaness, Infidelity and Immorality, they are therefore the Butt these especially Shoot at, and must accordingly be content to stand the shock of such Mens utmost Wit and Malice ; how Holy soever they have been in their Lives, or how Serviceable so ever to the Publick, yet they must bear the Reproaches of such, as there is too much Reason to suppose, would have Treated our Blessed Lord Himself in the same Opprobrious manner, were he to have lived and conversed amonst them. Wherefore all the Return that I shall make to these *Unreasonable and Wicked Men*, is only to Pray for them, That God would vouchsafe to open their Eyes, that they may see the Evil and Mischief of their ways, and may Forsake and Renounce them.

But besides this, there is another sort of disrespect shewn to the Clergy, by such as may be believed to have a great Honour for their Function, who yet would have them so entirely confin'd to their Employment, as not to be Engag'd in any Secular Office, tho' never so conduced to the Benefit of their Prince and Country ; and how well so ever qualified for publick Affairs.

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will not be persuaded to hear of their intermeddling in them. They have been so much us'd to the Bishops sitting in the House of Lords, that this perhaps may be more easily digested ; but they cannot with any Patience think of their Presiding in any Court of Judicature, being entrusted with their Sovereigns Treasury, or Signet, or so much as executing the transient Office of a Plenipotentiary, tho' in Order to one of the greatest Temporal Blessings, that can be desir'd ; that is to say, a Happy Peace, after a Tedious and Expensive War. My Business therefore at present is to endeavour the removal of this Offence, and to Vindicate her Majesty's great Wisdom and Prudence in having made Choice of one of this Sacred Order ; a Prelate of Great Sagacity and Experience, for the Management of her Negotiations, in Order to this weighty and desir'd End.

To which purpose I shall fit my self to shew the Expediency of such a Procedure, and that the usefulness of the Clergy in a Civil, as well as Sacred Capacity is indisputably Evident from the great Variety of Instances of this Nature recorded in our own English Histories, where their Characters shine with singular Luster ; so that they have made their Memories deservedly Honour'd for their Fidelity, Ability

lity and happy dispatch of the Affairs, they have been employ'd about, and transmitted their Names with Glory and Reputation, to all Succeeding Generations. Wherefore seeing these Holy Men have been so Famous for their Services to this Nation, in the publick Affairs of the Kingdom, as may be Evidently prov'd by Unquestionable Authorities of Antient, Middle and Modern History ; why then shou'd the present Instance of a certain great Person's being employ'd as a States-Man, as well as a Divine, be matter not only of Admiration, but also Dissatisfaction and Complaint. And that upon this Account the Clergy must be look'd upon with an Invidious Eye, and be inveigh'd against as Monopolizers of Government both in Church and State. To such a Height is this grown, that a Clergy-man can scarce sit in a Coffee House without hearing his Profession abus'd, and his Fraternity Treated with Ill Manners and Disrespect.

And all this for no other Reason, but because they are a Wise and Learned Body of Men, and are capable of Serving their Country. And that we may no longer Argue upon Supposition and bare Assertion only, we shall Immediately proceed to Fact, and herein shew how Serviceable the Clergy have been to this

this Nation in their Administration of Civil Offices.

And first, I shall by a few short Examples of Politick Knowledge, commendable Diligence, approv'd Fidelity and Loyalty, demonstrate how useful the Clergy have been, as Ambassadors, whose Office tho' not Character, is the same with that of a Plenipotentiary.

*William Reading*, a Learned Benedictine, was Employed by King *Henry the Second*, not only in one, but in many Embassies, which were so many Proofs of his good Behaviour and Conduct, and how well he pleas'd the Person that Employ'd him. He was afterwards for his good Services made Arch-Bishop of Bourdeaux. *Fuller's Worthies*.

*Henry the III.* sent *Walter de Cantilupo* Bishop of *Worcester*, Ambassador into *France*. And tho' he afterwards prov'd Rebellious to his Prince, yet he dy'd a great Penitent. *Godw. Cat. of Eng. Bps.*

The Clergy did not only Preach up Peace, but were sometimes the happy Instruments of composing Quarrels and making up wide Breaches between Kings themselves. Nor did the Pomp and Grandeur, the Stateliness and Majesty of Princes set them above hearing the wholesome Advice of a Discreet and Wise Divine.

This I think did sufficiently appear from the successful Labours of *William de Gaynsborough Bishop of Worcester*, who happily concluded a Peace between *Edward the I.* and *Philip King of France*, being sent upon an Embassy for that purpose. So dear was a good Clergy-man in those days, that Kings would leave even the Disposal of their Children in the Power of Bishops, for this same Prelate made up the Match, between *Edward the Kings Eldest Son*, and *Isabel the King of France's Daughter*, which he compleated to the Satisfaction of both Parties. *Wharton's Anglia Sacra.*

Let the Reader draw the Inference that ought to be made, and then he will be able to judge how Unjust as well as Unreasonable, are the Prejudices of such who cry down the Clergy as unfit Men, to serve their Country in a Civil Capacity.

Dr. *Fuller* in his Church History says, it was generally complain'd of in *Edward the Second's Time*, as a grand Grievance, that the Clergy engross'd all Places of Judicature in the Land. Nothing was left to Lay-Men, but either Military Commands, as those of General, Admiral, &c. or such Judges Places, as concern'd only the very Letter of the Common Law, and those also scarcely reserv'd to the Students thereof.

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As for Embassies into Foreign Parts, Noblemen were employed therein, when Expence, not Experience, was requir'd thereunto, and Ceremony the substance of the Service. Otherwise when any difficulty in Civil Law, then Clergymen were ever Entertain'd. The Lord Chancellor was ever a Bishop (as if against Equity to employ any other therein,) yea, that Court generally appear'd as a Synod of Divines, where the Clerks were Clerks as generally in Orders. The same was also True of the Lords-Treasurers and Barons of the Exchequer.

In the Reign of *Edward the III.* *John de Bury*, went twice with the Character of Ambassador to Pope *John*, and never return'd from him, without distinguishing marks of his Favour. King *Edward* after he had made him Treasurer of the Wardrobe, Keeper of the Privy-Seal, Chancellor of *England*, and Bishop of *Durham*, sent him to *France* to Claim that Kingdom in his Name. He continued him upon several Embassies for nine years; whereby we may Judge the King was well satisfied with his Conduct and Behaviour.

In 1385, *Richard II.* sent *John Gilbert* Bishop of *Hereford*, Ambassador into *France*, how well he acquitted himself I cannot learn, but the Reader, may Con-fide in this, that so well Qualified was he

he thought to serve the Government, that he was made Treasurer of *England* in the following year.

*Robert Mascal* after he went to *Oxford*, so profited and advanc'd in Letters and Vertue, as he was greatly lov'd and admir'd by all Men. King *Henry IV.* made choice of him for his Confessor, and found means to prefer him to the Bishoprick of *Hereford*. He was Often sent Ambassador unto Foreign Princes; Which shews how well deserving he was of such a Character.

*Henry V.* sent *Chichley* Ambassador to King *Charles VI.* of *France*, and *John Duke of Burgundy*, who were then upon ill Terms with each other; so well did he carry himself, that in his Embassy and before his Return, he was Elected Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*; *Godwin* says, that he was employ'd on Embassies and other Affairs of the King, wherein he ever behav'd himself wisely, and to the great Satisfaction of his Prince. 'Twas by his Advice that *Henry* went upon Conquering *France*, which he did, to his own Immortal Honour.

*Philip Morgan*, Bishop of *Worcester* went by Order of *Henry V.* to *Alenconia*, to treat with the French Ambassador. And some few years after when a Vacancy Fell, he was translated to the See of *Ely*.

*Robert Fitzhugh* went Ambassador once into *Germany*, and another Time in  
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to *Rome*, and after this, was Consecrated Bishop of *London*; Sep. 16. 1431. In the Reign of *Henry VI.*

*William Lynwood*, Bishop of *St. David's* was Keeper of the Privy Seal, having been first employ'd upon Embassies to the Kings of *Spain*, *Portugal*, and other Princes. Thus we see when the Clergy had acquitted themselves well at one Princes Court, they were found by this so well qualified to serve their Country, that they were immediately order'd to another.

*Edward the Fourth's* Reign was chiefly spent in allaying Intestine Troubles, and Establishing himself in the Throne, so that we don't find he sent many of the Clergy into Foreign Countries. *Edward the V.* was Proclaim'd, but never Crown'd King, for that wicked Usurper *Richard the Third*, had this Innocent Prince, with his younger Brother *Richard*, secretly Murder'd, to secure the Crown for himself. But this render'd him so Odious and so much lessen'd his Interest in Courts abroad, that scarce any did receive Messages from him.

But if we descend to the Reign of that Wise and Good Monarch, *Henry the Seventh*, we shall quickly see what great Notice he took of the Clergy, and how able he thought they were to serve him; for he finding *William Warham*, Master of

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the Rolls, to be an Excellent Orator ; sent him Ambassador to the Duke of Burgundy, to dissuade him from believing the False Reports of his Dutches, and to signify how Notoriously she had abus'd him and all the World, in setting up two Counterfeits against him ; *Lambert*, that made himself the Earl of Warwick, who was then to be seen in the Tower safe enough, and *Perkin Warbeck*, whom she had Taught to name himself *Richard Duke of York*, that was Evidently known to have been Murder'd by his wicked Uncle long before. In this Business his deportment was so discreet and prudent, that the King highly commend-ed him for the same, and the Bishoprick of London happening to be Void, soon after his Return home, he procur'd him to be Elected thereunto. He had not fill'd that Episcopal Chair two years, when *Henry Dean*, Arch-Bishop of Canterbury Died, to whose Place he was by the Kings special Endeavours advanc'd.

*Richard Mayo*, Chancellor and Arch-Deacon of Oxford, as also President of *Magdalen College*, and Almoner unto *Henry VII.* in the year 1501, was sent Ambassador into *Spain*, to bring over the Lady *Katherine*, to be Married unto Prince *Arthur*; not long after his Return he was pre-

preferr'd unto the Bishoprick of *Hereford.*

*Robert Sherburn* Bishop of *Chichester*, was often employed in Embassies by *Henry VII.* being a man of Excellent Wisdom and Fine Parts.

*Geffry Blythe* went Ambassador from *Henry the Seventh* to *Ladislaus* King of *Hungary*, and so great Satisfaction, did he give the King at his Return, that he presently after was made Bishop of *Lichfield* and *Coventry*.

If we cast an Eye upon the Reign of *Henry the Eighth*, who was a Man of Excellent good Parts, and consequently the better able to know who were the fittest Men to serve him, we shall find the Clergy in great Esteem with him; for he employ'd Dr. *John Clerk* in several Embassies, who was Bishop of *Bath and Wells*, as also *Nicholas West*, Bishop of *Ely*, who was Eminent both for Learning and State Affairs.

*Jerom de Guynuchijs*, an Italian by Birth, came into *England*, and was made Bishop of *Worcester*, being very useful to the King, for he sent him upon several Embassies, both into *Spain* and *Italy*; with so much Care, Prudence and Fidelity, did he manage the Business committed to him, that King *Henry* and *Franciscus* King of *France* petition'd the Pope to make

make him Cardinal, which upon their great Solicitations was Granted.

*John Voyscie, Bishop of Exeter, Dr. of the Laws,* was very Learned and Wise, and in great Favour with *Henry the Eighth*, who sent him several Times upon Embassies to Foreign Princes, *William Knight Dr. of Law and Arch-Deacon of Richmond*, was a Man much Employed in Embassies by *Henry the Eighth*, he was afterwards made Bishop of *Bath and Wells*.

*Edward Fox Dr. of Divinity and Almoner unto Henry the Eighth*, was often sent Ambassador into *Germany, Italy* and elsewhere, being a Man of great Learning. *Edward Lee, Almoner to Henry the Eighth* was very much employed in Embassies both before and after his Preferment to the Arch-Bishoprick of *Tork*.

*Thomas Thirlby, Dr. of Laws, born and bred in Cambridge*, was an able Man in his Faculty, and was more than once employed in Embassies by King *Henry the Eighth*, as was also *Edmund Bonner*, who was sent to the Kings of *Denmark* and *France*, to the Pope and the Emperor; such was his Conduct, that in the Time of his Embassy, and before his Return, he was Elected Bishop of *London*. Nor can we omit *Thomas Cranmer*, who was sent by the same Prince Ambassador into

*France*,

*France, Italy and Germany*, where he managed the Kings Affairs to so great Advantage, that upon the Death of Arch-Bishop *Warham*, the King orders him Home, and makes him Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*.

*Edward the Sixth*, a Prince noted for the Pregnancy of his Wit, and Knowledge in all kinds of Learning, sent *Gooderick Bishop of Ely* upon an Embassy into *France*, where he carried himself so much to the King's Approbation, that he created him Chancellor of *England*.

As for Queen *Mary*, her Reign was but short, and of no long Continuance, and whether she employed any of the Clergy in Foreign Embassies, I cannot inform the Reader, having seen none that fall within the Compafs of my small Reading; but in the Famous Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, we find that *Thomas Smith*, went upon several Embassies to great Satisfaction. In the Time of *Edward the Sixth*, he was made Secretary of State, Knighted and Promoted to the Deanery of *Carlisle*, and also made Provost of *Eaton Colledge*; in Queen *Mary's* Days, he was deprived of his Dignities, but restored to his Preferments by Queen *Elizabeth*.

Sir

Sir Isaac Wake, Rector of Billing in Northampton-Shire, upon his coming from his Travels, was made Secretary to Sir Dudley Carleton, Secretary of State, and was afterwards sent Ambassador to Venice, Savoy, France, &c. by K. James the First and Charles the First. He was a Person of great Parts and Learning.

Sir Henry Wotton in his Embassies was very Serviceable to this Nation, namely in procuring of Privileges and Courtesies with the German Princes and Republick of Venice, for the English Merchants; and by what he did by Direction of King James the First with the Venetian State, concerning the Bishop of Spalato's Return to the Church of Rome, and many other things.

Tho' Sr. Henry Wotton went not into Holy Orders, till after his Return from Abroad, I hope that will not be Objected against me for placing him among the Clergy at this time of day. To all these we may add Mr. Hill, who was at Brussels, Sr. Robert Sutton her Majesties Ambassador to Turkey, and Mr. Robinson at Sewden, who for the great Services he did there, has since been deservedly made Bishop of Bristol, Lord Privy Seal, and now first Plenipotentiary in the present Conferences held for a General Peace, and 'tis allow'd by all Hands both Whig and Tory, High and Low, according to that odi-

odious Distinction that he is the fittest Person in the whole Nation to be Employ'd in such a Business.

Can any one now after these clear Evidences of the Clergys Abilities to serve their Country in Foreign Courts, express the least dislike of her Majesties Couduct in appointing a Divine to be her chief Representative in the Treaty of Peace, whose great knowledge in Politicks, as well as Divinity, renders him duly qualified to be an Ambassador for an Earthly as well as Heavenly Prince. I have not produc'd these Instances, for proofs of the Clergys being sent Abroad as Ambassadors, but as Testimonies of their great Qualifications for so high an Office: As likewise to shew how well they have deserv'd from their Country upon this Account, and to stop the Mouths of those who so much exclaim against their Civil Employments. I am not insensible of what some Men urge against Divines being concern'd in any Businels, but what is purely Spiritual, at this Time of Day. How that formerly Learning was only among them and that the Ignorance of the Laity did incapacitate them, for being Serviceable to the Government, as Politicians and State-Officers; but since the case is alter'd, we have no farther need of the Clergy's Service in this Nature,

let them mind their own Busines: This Objection no ways hurts my design, which is to shew how great Services the Clergy have done to this Nation, and that they have been, and are still capable of being useful to the Publick as Ambassadors, &c. If her Majesty for wise and good Reasons shall think fit to Employ them; and that men have no occasion to be in any manner Surpriz'd, or dissatisfied at such a Proceedure; seeing the best and most knowing of her Royal Predecessors have done the same. And if this Order of Men may be rely'd on for their Ability, much more for their Integrity; whose Sacred Profession lays them under the strictest Obligations, to be not only Persons of Honesty, but Honour, and Loyalty.

But it may be also Objected, that since the Clergy have been laid aside, and not us'd as formerly, they are not now so well vers'd in matters of State, as they have been in preceeding Reigns, and consequently not so Fit for this Busines as heretofore. Generally speaking, I believe they are not, but still we find that tho' they have not been so much Employ'd of late, as in Times past, yet there are some Remarkable Instances of the Clergys Abilities, to serve their Nation in a Civil Capacity,

ty, else they wou'd not have been made use of for that Purpose, which shews, that if they were more thought of in this way, more would qualify themselves for it ; as having the Advantage of Learning equal to, if not exceeding the Laity, should we take in the whole Number of Men.

That is, I believe, I may say, the Clergy commonly speaking are more learn'd than the Laity. But tho' they are not so frequently call'd upon as formerly to serve the Government as Ambassadors, Chancellors, Treasurers and the like, yet even since the Reformation, scarce has there been a Reign in which a Clergy-man has not been made use of in Busines, which did not immediately relate to his Spiritual Function, and why some Men should wonder at a late Instance of this Nature, seems much more strange and unreasonable than the thing it self.

I have now shewn how Serviceable the Clergy have been to this Nation, as Ambassadors, Envoys, and the like, and how well they have acquitted themselves ; that I may also prove their further Usefulness to this Kingdom, I shall just give the Reader some short Hints of their being Lord Chancellors, Treasurers, Secretaries, &c. and let him see

with how profound a Knowledge and Wisdom, with how great a Caution and becoming Prudence they behaved themselves in these Honourable Employments.

If we begin with them in their more early Days of Appearance at Court, we must trace them back as far as *William the Conqueror*, in whose Reign we find *Osmond*, 2d Bishop of *Salisbury*, after *Shireburn* and *Wiltshire* were United into one Diocese, Chancellor of *England*. He was a Man well Learn'd, and very Wise, for which Reasons he was always of the Privy Council, and seldom spared from Court. Nay, we could go beyond this Time if it were needful, for *Leopoldicus* Bishop of *Exeter*, was Chancellor of *England*, and Privy Councillor to *Edward the Confessor*.

*William Rufus* created *Robert Bloet*, Second Bishop of *Lincoln* Chancellor of *England*, he was a Man of great Wisdom.

*Henry the First*, made *Roger* Third Bishop of *Salisbury*, Chancellor of *England*, which was before his Consecration. So great a Favourite was this Person, that being one of His Majesty's Privy Council, his Advice took Place above all others; nay, the King to ease himself, committed the Government of his Kingdom

to this wise and good Man. Nor was this the only Divine he ever appointed Chancellor of *England*, for he Conferred the same Honour upon *William Gyffard*; and as an acknowledgement of his great Service the King gave him the Bishoprick of *Winchester*, who thereupon received his Consecration. Nor did *Geffry Rufus*, less Merit this King's Favour, who by His Majesty's Interest was Elected into the Bishoprick of *Durham*, having born the Office of Chancellor. So well did the Clergy discharge the Duty incumbent on them, when in this Office, and so much did they endear themselves to this Prince by their Knowledge, Learning and Fidelity, that he scrupled not to put the Government of the whole Kingdom into their Hands: Upon this great Opinion he had of their Ability and Integrity, he made *Nigellus* Bishop of *Ely*, Treasurer of the *Exchequer*, in which Office he acquitted himself with great Applause and Reputation, as may be seen in the *Encomium* given him by *Gervasius Tilberiensis in Libro M. S. de Scaccarij Juribus & consuetudinibus. cap.*

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To these already mentioned we may annex, *Simon* 27th Bishop of *Worcester*, *Rainelmus* 30th Bishop of *Hereford*, Ber-

*nard* 46th Bishop of St. David's, who were Chancellors to the Royal Consort of *Henry* the First, and *Godfry* 17th Bishop of *Bath and Wells*, who for a Time was Chancellor of *England* under this King.

As for the Reign of King *Stephen* I have not as yet found any thing therein very material to our present Design, but in that of *Henry* the Second, *Jeffry Plantagenet* was made Lord Chancellor and held that Office Eight Years.

*Richard* the First created *William de Longo Campo* Chancellor of *England*, and Lord chief Justice. So well Qualified was this Extraordinary Man for his Places, that in the whole Kingdom was not found a Man so fit for Publick Employment.

He was thoroughly acquainted with the Constitution of this Nation, for nothing of Moment happen'd in English History, that he was not acquainted with. At the King's Request he was Elected into the Bishoprick of *Ely*, and Consecrated at *Lambeth*: Within a few Years after he was sent to *Rome* upon an Embassy, but never lived to return back. He paid the Debt due to Nature at *Poitiers*, and was Interr'd in the Abby *de Pina*. But with Respect to the Memory of this Great Man; his Heart was carefully

fully Preserved and laid in a small Tomb of Marble by the Altar of St. Martin.

So well did the Clergy carry themselves in all Civil Offices, that no Honour was thought too great to be paid them, even at their Death; and tho' their Bodies died, decay'd and moulder'd away, after all Care taken to preserve them, yet their Memory lived and smelt Sweet to Posterity.

'Twas look'd upon as a great Act of Prudence in Princes to put the Clergy into Secular Employments especially when their Qualifications were known to make them Meritorious of the Honour and Trust. This Knowledge they learn'd from their Predecessors who reaped no small Advantage from the Successful Labours of the Clergy. The above-said *Richard* made *Hubert Walter*, Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, for his great Qualifications and Services, Lord-Chancellor, Chief Justice of *England*, and Chief Governour of all his Dominions; so that being already Arch-Bishop and Pope's Legate he wanted no Authority that could be laid upon him. Never was there any Clergy-man, either before or after him, of so great Power. Never any Man used his Authority more Moderately. How well he dis-

charged the Duty incumbent on him, is partly to be guess'd at from the following Character. He was reported to be an excellent Man, a Bridle to the King, and an Obstacle to Tyranny, the Peace and Comfort of the People, and *Lastly*, a notable Refuge of all, both High and Low, against all manner of Injury and Oppression. Faithful and Loyal he his was to Prince, Loving and very Careful of his Country, in which he caused many excellent Laws to be Established.

If we pass over the Reign of King *John*, and proceed to that of *Henry the Third*, there we shall see the Clergy again Flourish in their Civil Offices. *George Nevil* at Twenty Years of Age was made Bishop of *Exeter*, at Twenty Five Chancellor of *England*, in which Place he gain'd great Reputation. *Eustachius de Fauconbridge*, 43d Bishop of *London*, was a very Eminent Man, having born several Offices of great Honour, equal Trust and weighty Concern; he had been One of the King's Justices, Chancellor of the *Exchequer*, Treasurer of *England*, and twice Ambassador to *France*. *Hugh de Patesbul*, 45th Bishop of *Litchfield*, a Man for his Life and Conversation unblameable, and not unlearned.

learned, was both Treasurer and Chancellor of England.

*Silvester de Everton* received the Great Seal, An. 29 of Hen. III. and was afterwards made Bishop of Carlisle; he was commended as one of great Knowledge in the Customs of Chancery. *Thomas de Blundevil* for his good Behaviour in his Office which he bore in the Exchequer, was preferr'd unto the Bishoprick of Norwich.

If we trace the Reign of Edward the First we may soon discover the great Trust and Confidence he reposed in the Clergy, and their Faithful Service to him. *John de Kyrkby* was by him created Chancellor of England, and afterwards made Bishop of Ely, so exceeding well did this great Man dispatch Matters relating to that Post, and so much to the King's Satisfaction, that in Two Years time he was made Treasurer of England, and so continued to his dying Day. With so much Probity did he quit himself in his Busines, that the Reputation of the Clergy got Ground upon his Conduct, and they were in great Esteem with this Prince, who made several of the Holy Function Treasurers of England, of these were *Robert Burnel*, Bishop of Bath and Wells, *John Droningsford*,

*kingsford*, who was Clerk of the Wardrobe, as well as Treasurer of *England*. His Abilities, Loyalty and Honesty gained him so much Favour and Reputation at Court, that when King *Edward* went into *France*, he left the Administration of the Government to his sole Care, and he was the only Person entrusted with that Power. *William de Marchia* after he had served Two Years and a Half Treasurer, had the Bishoprick of *Bath and Wells* conferr'd upon him. *William Louth* was Clerk of the Wardrobe and Treasurer of *England*, and was also made Bishop of *Ely*. None were ever employed in the Government, but had other Preferments bestowed upon them, as a Reward for their Faithful and Meritorious Service. *John de Chisbul*, Dean of St. *Paul's*, some time Arch-Deacon of *London*, having been first Keeper of the Great Seal, and then Treasurer of *England*, as an Acknowledgement of his Merit was made Bishop of *London*. *Thomas Cantilupe* was Chancellor of *England* in the Reign of *Edward the First*, and in the Year 1275 was Elected Bishop of *Hereford*. He was a Gentleman of a very Noble and Ancient House, but of a much more Noble and Excellent Mind, being not only wonderfully Witty, but ever from a Child very Studious and Painful, and

no less Harmless and Vertuously given. *William de Greenfield* 41st Arch-Bishop of *Tork* was Chancellor of *England* under *Edward the First*, he was a Great and Wise Councillor, very Eloquent and not Unlearned.

If we look into the Reign of *Edward the Second*, we shall see that the Clergy were entertain'd in the Administration of Civil Offices, for this Prince had not made his Tutor *Walter Reynold* Treasurer above a Year, but bestowed upon him the Bishoprick of *Worcester*, and after that, declared him Chancellor of *England*; with so much Wisdom, Care and Prudence did he manage himself in this Great and Honourable Post, that within Two Years he was translated from *Worcester* to *Canterbury*. Nor did *John Thoresby* come far short of this excellent Primate, being also made Chancellor of *England*, and within less than Three Years was translated from *Worcester* to *Tork*.

*John Stratford* having a long Time, and to good Purpose studied the Canon and Civil Law, was called to the Arch-Deaconry of *Lincoln*; being Famous for his Learning and good Government of that Jurisdiction, *Walter* the Arch Bishop made him his Principal Official and Dean of the Arches; and King *Edward the*

the Second shortly after that, appointed him Secretary, and so One of his Privy Council.

The King was exceeding Angry with him for accepting the Bishoprick of *Winchester*, which he designed for another, but after some time, being restored to the King's Favour, lie waxed greater in it every Day more and more, and served him Diligently and Faithfully to the last Hour. For when all His Majesty's Friends fell off, this good Prelate ever kept True to him.

This Prince also made *John Sendal* 47th Bishop of *Winton*, Chancellor of *England*.

*John Hotham*, 16th Bishop of *Ely*, both Chancellor and Treasurer.

*Henry Burwass*, 16 Bishop of *Lincoln*, First Treasurer and then Chancellor.

*John Fountney*, Treasurer.

*Roger Northborough*, Bishop of *Lichfield*, Clerk of the Wardrobe and Treasurer.

*Walter Stapleton*, Bishop of *Exeter*, Treasurer, whom the King employed in several Embassies of great Importance.

*John Salmon*, Bishop of *Norwich*, Chancellor, all which so far as I can learn behaved themselves like Men of Honour, Conscience and Knowledge.

If we search the Reign of Edward the Third, we shall find that John Offord a Man of great Eloquence, and one ver-  
ry Cunning and Wary in his Advice,  
was made Chancellor of England, and  
at the King's Request Pope Clement the Sixth settled him in the Arch-Bishoprick  
of Canterbury. Simon Islep was Elected  
into the See of Canterbury, who was Se-  
cretary to this King. By these Instances,  
we may see the Clergy behaved them-  
selves so well in Publick Employments,  
and by their Industrious Labours work'd  
themselves so deep into the Affections of  
those Princes they served under, that  
the highest Preferments they were Ca-  
pable of, were not thought too great a  
Reward for their Loyal and Faithful  
Service. John Barnet had not supplied  
the Place of Treasurer above One Year,  
before he was translated from Worcester  
to Wells. William de Bury, in the Year  
of our Lord 1334, was on the Third of  
February declared Treasurer of England,  
and in the September following was cre-  
ated Chancellor. The Clergy did not  
continue long in one Office before they  
were thought fit for a Greater. To  
these we may add Simon Langham, Bi-  
shop of Ely, who was made Treasurer  
of England, and likewise Chancellor; Wil-  
liam Edendon Bishop of Winchester, who  
was

was Treasurer, being in great Favour with *Edward the Third.* *William Wickham*, Bishop of *Winchester*, who was Treasurer, as some report, and others doubt; but True it is, that he was Trusted with all the Weighty Affairs of the Kingdom, and had the Disposal of the King's Treasury, ruling all things to his own Will. He was also Chancellor of *England*.

Nor can weomit *Edmund Stafford*, Bishop of *Exeter*, who was Chancellor under *Edward the Third*, being a Learned and Excellent Orator. *Thomas Charlton* Bishop of *Hereford*, who was Treasurer of *England*; Lastly, *Adam Houghton*, Bishop of St. *David's*, who was Chancellor of *England* in the Reign of *Edward the Third*.

If we descend to the Reign of *Richard the Second*, we shall find this King no less forward in committing a Share of the Government to the Clergy than his Predecessors before him: For he made *Henry Wakefield*, Bishop of *Worcester*, his Treasurer; *Richard Clifford*, Bishop of the same Diocess, his Clerk; so great a Favourite was he, that several Noble Men were Offended, and Forced him from the King. Yet notwithstanding all the Malice hatched and contrived against him, they could no ways Expel him out of the King's Favour.

And

And as a Testimony hereof he was afterwards translated to the Bishoprick of *London*. *John Fordham* from Secretary to *Richard the Second* was made Treasurer of *England*, and within Eight Years after was translated from *Durham* to the Bishoprick of *Ely*. This same Prince made *Robert Braybrook*, Bishop of *Ely*, Chancellor of *England*: Also *John Waltham*, Master of the Rolls, and Keeper of the Privy-Seal, in the Year 1388 Bishop of *Salisbury*, and in Ninety One Treasurer of *England*, who continued so to his dying Day. King *Richard* loved him entirely, and greatly bewailed his Death; and as a Proof of his Love to him order'd his Corps to be Buried among the Kings, notwithstanding the Multitude of Men, who Envied him that Honour. *Thomas Brentingham* was the King's Treasurer for the Places of *Guynes*, *Merks* and *Calis*, he was afterwards Bishop of *Exeter*. He was a Man very well Learn'd, expert as well in Politick Government, as in Ecclesiastical Matters, and in both these Respects greatly Reverenced and Esteemed.

*John Gilbert* was made Treasurer of *England* in the Reign of *Richard the Second*, by the Parliament; and tho' displaced as one delivers, yet was afterwards restored.

*Henry*

*Henry the Fourth, who was so Wise a Prince, that in Cases of Difficulty, tho' he did not refuse, yet he needed not the Advice of others, appointed Nicholas Budwith, who was Bishop of London First, and afterwards of Salisbury, Treasurer of England.*

In the Reign of *Henry the Fifth, John Wakering, Bishop of Norwich, and one of an Excellent Character was made Keeper of the Privy Seal; and afterwards the Custody of the Seal was committed to John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who was First made Treasurer of England, by Henry the Sixth, and then Chancellor.* Scarce was any Reign that did not produce Eminent Men of the Sacred Function both for Matters of State as well as Church. *Henry the Sixth made Anewyke Bishop of Norwich, if I mistake not, Keeper of the Seal; But in the Year of our Lord 1432, the Seal was given to Thomas Beckington, afterwards Bishop of Bath and Wells, a Man Celebrated for Letters, Knowledge and Parts: He was concern'd in all the Affairs of this Kingdom, especially those of the greatest Moment, and knew the most reserved Secrets of the King. Those Epistles, Injunctions, Speeches, Contracts, and other notable Things, which in his Time were transacted in England and all over the Christian World, demonstrated*

demonstrated his Indefatigable Diligence, and incredible Subtilty in the Management of Publick Affairs. The Treaties between *England* and *France* in his Time have and will perpetuate the Memory of this Great and Excellent Prelate.

*Robert Stillington*, if I mistake not, was Bishop of *Bath and Wells*, he was a Man of singular Learning and was declared by *Henry the Sixth* Keeper of the Privy-Seal; and in 1468 was created Chancellor of *England*.

*John Moortor*, afterwards Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, in the Reign of *Henry the Sixth* was one of his Privy Council. In all those Miseries and Afflictions which that good King endured, *Moortor* ever stuck fast to him, and by no means would be drawn to forsake him, when all the World in a Manner betook themselves unto his Victorious Adversary.

*Marmaduke Lumley* about this King's Reign, was made Treasurer of *England*, who was Bishop of *Lincoln*.

*John Russel*, a Wise and Grave Man, was Chancellor of *England*, as also Bishop of *Lincoln*.

*William Waynfleet*, Provost of *Eaton*, was for his great Wisdom and Integrity first made, and then continued a long Time Chancellor of *England*, he had likewise the See of *Winchester* conferred upon him

for his Faithful and Loyal Service, which continued to the End : For in all the Storms between the Houses of *Lancaster* and *York*, he stuck close to his Patron and First Promoter, *Henry* the Sixth.

*Adam Molins* Bishop of *Chichester*, had the Privy-Seal committed to his Care, as had also *William Lynwood* Bishop of *St. David's*. *John Kemp* Arch-Bishop of *York* was twice Chancellor of *England*, whereby 'tis believed he merited that Honour. So Bright we see was the Lustre of the Clergy in the Reign of *Henry* the Sixth.

If we cast an Eye upon the Reign of *Edward* the Fourth, we shal find the Clergy still Flourishing, in the Favour of their Prince.

For King *Edward* taking Notice of the abovesaid *Moortons* Loyalty and Faithfulness to *Henry* the Sixth, never ceased to Allure him into his own Service after the Death of his Predecessor ; assuring himself, that he who had been so Faithful to his Adversary in so great Adversity, would no doubt be as Faithful unto him in the like Case, if Occasion should serve. The King having won this good Man over to him, Swore him of his Council, and Trusted him with his greatest Secrets. So Faithful and Loyal was this good Prelate, that the King made him one of his Executors, but 'twas not in

in his Power to perform the Will, for the Wickedness of *Richard the Third*, who Barbarously Murdered the King's Two Sons. But the Bishop settled the Crown right again, as will be proved hereafter.

*James Goldwell*, was Secretary to this King, and after that made Bishop of *Norwich*. *William Grey*, Bishop of *Ely*, being a Person not only Learned, but very Discreet and no less Industrious, was also made Treasurer of *England*. *George Nevell*, Arch-Bishop of *Tork*, and *Thomas Rotheram alias Scot*, were both Chancellors. The latter behaved himself so well, that he continued in that Office for a long Time.

If we look into the Reign of *Henry the Seventh*, we must again consider, Bishop *Moortons* Services to this Nation, who upon the Barbarous Murder of the Two Young Princes above-mention'd, was resolved to right the Family of *Edward the Fourth*, his deceased Friend and Sovereign; he therefore goes to *France*, and brings over *Henry Earl of Richmond*, who Invaded *England*, and in the Battel of *Bosworth* Killed *Richard the Third*. Whose Crown being immediately set upon the Head of *Henry* in the very Field of Battel, he was proclaimed King with great Applause. He afterwards Married the Princess *Elizabeth*, Daughter of *Edward the Fourth*, and united the Red and

White Roses, by which singular Wisdom of Bishop *Moorten*, for by him this Marriage was made up, the Kingdom was again Settled, after it had been miserably torn to Pieces by the Fatal and Bloody War, betwixt the Two Houses of *York* and *Lancaster*. By this time we may see how useful this Prelate has been both to King and Kingdom. The former made him Chancellor of *England* and Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury* for his great Services to this Nation.

This same Prince made *Oliver King* his Principal Secretary (who was afterwards Bishop of *Bath and Wells*) and *John Alcock*, that Learned and Pious Bishop, Lord Chancellor of *England*. Dr. *Fuller* says, that *Henry the Seventh*, was an excellent Prince to taste Mens Abilities.

If we consult the Reign of *Henry the Eighth*, we shall find *Thomas Woolsey* a Man Eminent for Learning made Chancellor of *England*; tho' he was not without his Faults, yet he was a Man of great Charity, as will appear from his noble Foundations and liberal Benefactions. He was Arch-Bishop of *York* and a Cardinal likewise, an Honour not often conferred upon English Divines. *Ruthell* a Clergy-man, was very Famous in the Reign of this King, being one of his Council.

Council. *Cuthbert Tonstal*, was also Master of the Rolls and Keeper of the Privy-Seal, and for his good Behaviour in these Offices, was made Bishop of *London*, and afterwards translated to *Durham*.

*Rowland Lee*, Dr. of Law and 63d Bishop of *Litchfield*, was Famous for Two Actions. First he Married *Henry the Eighth* to *Anne Bullen*, which fortunate Marriage was the Occasion of that Happiness which *England* enjoyed under its Noble Sovereign Queen *Elizabeth* their Daughter. The next remarkable Act was performed after he was made President of *Wales*.

For in the Time of his Government, and partly by his Endeavours, the Country of *Wales* was by Parliament Incorporated and United to the Kingdom of *England*; the Liberties, Laws and other Things were made common to the Welsh with the Natural English.

In the Reign of *Edward the Sixth*, *Thomas Goderick* Bishop of *Ely*, was a mighty Favourite of that Prince, so great that he made him Chancellor of *England*.

Queen *Mary the First* created *Stephen Gardiner*, Bishop of *Winchester*, Chancellor of *England*, who was a Man of great Learning, and too much Wit, unless he had employed it to a better Use: For he was a bitter and violent Enemy to the Protestant

testant Religion. The like Honour did this Queen confer upon *Nicholas Heath*, Bishop of *Rochester*. Nor was her Wise and Good Sister, Queen *Elizabeth*, less forgetful of the Clergy's Ability to serve her, for she made *Thomas Toong*, Arch-bishop of *Yorke*, Lord President of the North.

I cannot conclude this short Essay without mentioning Arch-bishop *Williams*, who was Lord Keeper of the Great Seal in the Reigns of King *James I.* and King *Charles I.* and if I mistake not, was the last Clergyman that bore that Office. And tho' some have cast a Slur upon him, by saying the Lord *Coventry* had reversed many of his Decrees, and corrected his Errors, yet we shall find this to be nothing but Slander and Prejudice, if we may believe what Bishop *Hacket* says concerning this Primate of *England*.

Let me, says Bishop *Hacket*, quote a Couple of Witnesses what they asserted of him, and they are, continues he, rightly produced, as God shall judge. The Duke of *Buckingham*, in the Beginning of *Michaelmas* Term 1624, desired the Ld. Chief Justice *Herbert* to certify the King that *Williams*, by reason of his Inabilities and Ignorance, was not fit for the Keeper's Place, and upon that he would throw him out, and that he should succeed him. My Lord (reply'd *Herbert*) something might have been said at first,

first, but he shoud do the Lord Keeper great Wrong that shoud say so now. The next is Mr. George Evelyn, One of the Six Clerks, and in his Time the best Head-piece in that Office, who took pleasure in saying, as many yet know, that the Lord Keeper Williams had the most Towring Sublime Wit that he ever heard speak, and that his Decrees in all Causes were Just; that the Lord Coventry did seldom alter any thing he had settled before him, but upon New Presumptions; and that he spake of him always in Court very honourably.

And as we have not omitted the last Divine that was Lord Keeper, so let us not forget Bishop Juxon, who was also the last of that Order, who was Treasurer of England, in which Office he behaved himself to the General Satisfaction of the Nation, as well as Great Reputation of the Clergy, who from Wm. the Conqueror down to the present Age have shewn themselves to be fit and able Persons for Civil Employments.

The Weal of this Kingdom and all the English Kings has depended upon the Bishops: And for this End their Presence is so much required at London, that it was judged expedient, that every Bishoprick should have a Palace, or House belonging to it, in or about London. Great was the Authority of the Clergy in former Days; and their Memory should be precious

precious in these, if we consider that they were the Authors of so great Benefits and Advantages to this Kingdom ; that there are few things of any Importance, for promoting the Welfare of this Church and State, wherein the Bishops, under God, have not been the Principal Instruments. The Excellent Laws made by King *Ina*, King *Athelstane*, King *Edmund*, and St. *Edward* the Confessor ; from whom we have our Common Law, and our Privileges mention'd in *Magna Charta*, were all made by the Advices and Persuasions of Arch-bishops and Bishops, named in our Histories. The Union of the Two Houses of *York* and *Lancaster* (whereby a Long and Bloody War was ended) was by the most wise Advice of Bishop *Moorten*, then a Privy Counsellor, as I have already shewn. The Union of *England* and *Scotland*, that inexpressible Advantage to Both Nations, was brought to pass by the Long Foresight of the Reverend Bishop *Fox*, a Privy Counsellor, in advising *Henry VII.* to match his Eldest Daughter to *Scotland*, and his Younger to *France*. When the Clergy were employed in Civil Offices, they did not plunder the Nation to enrich themselves by indirect and unwarrantable Means, but were contented with the ordinary and usual Revenues of their Places, and took no Profit but what was reconcili-  
able

ble to the Principles of Honour and Conscience. And what they thus honourably and honestly got, they piously and charitably expended in Foundations for the Publick Good; for most of the great Publick Works now remaining in *England* acknowledge their Ancient and Present Being, either to the Sole Costs and Charges, or to the Liberal Contributions, or at least to the Powerful Persuasions of Bishops. Of this Nature are Churches, Colleges, Libraries, Hospitals, Monasteries, Palaces, Castles, &c.

All Clergymen are in *England*, as anciently among God's own People, the Jews, and amongst the Ancient Christians, so soon as they were under Christian Emperors, judged fit to enjoy divers Temporal Honours and Employments. And therefore let us not think our selves the only Wise People in this Particular, or as some will have it, the only Fools. For Nations abroad who have been of old, and some who are still celebrated for their wise and discreet Government, have, and do still entertain the Clergy in Civil Affairs. All Clergymen, I say, are in *England* judged fit to enjoy divers Honours and Employments.

*First*, To be in Commission of the Peace: And this, not only an Honour purely conferred upon them to get them Esteem only, but were thought the most proper Persons: For who so proper to make and keep Peace,

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as they whose constant Duty is to preach Peace? Who so fit as they, whose main Business and Study is to reconcile those that are at variance.

Moreover the Arch-bishops and Bishops were (and are still) call'd to Parliament, for their Gravity, Learning, and Wisdom. Mr. *Hooker* says that the Fathers and First Founders of this Government, have thought it expedient and beneficial, that the Body Politic of this Kingdom, should consist of King, Lords, and Commons: So 'tis necessary that the Second Ingredient to this Mixture should as well consist of Lords Spiritual and Temporal. For Nobility and Prelacy being thus combia'd, one cannot be injur'd without touching the other, and by consequence, the whole be considerably weaken'd.

Bishops have been and are now of Her Majesty's Privy Council, where frequently Cases of Conscience may arise relating to State Matters, that admit of neither Delay nor Publication: And therefore after the Pattern of the First Christian Emperor, Constantine the Great, our Good Kings, before and since the Reformation, have always admitted some Spiritual Persons to their Council Tables, and Closet Debates.

And therefore Mr. *Hooker* says, Prelates are very beneficial to the Public, especially those that have any Office at Court, and consequently must be near the Persons, and

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in the Council of Kings and Princes, in taking care that in the Variety and Intricacy of their Affairs, nothing may be done to the Prejudice of Religion, being in this Case the true Director of the King's Conscience. Of the Clergy's being Counsellors and Advisers to their Governours, we have many Instances and Examples, as in *Eleazar* to *Joshua*, *Abiathar* to *David*, and *Hosius*, Bishop of *Corduba*, to *Constantine*: And other Emperors and Kings also had Bishops near them; who privately, as the Best Way of dealing with Princes, admonished them, comforted, and upon all Occasions reproved them. To which may be added, that since the Courts of Princes are too often frequented by Time-servers, Flatterers, *Ahitophels*, and Traitors, there seems the greater Necessity that they should be overballanced by the Piety, Integrity, Fidelity, and Courage of the Prelates; whose Understandings capacitating them to know what is right, just, and beneficial to the Public, their Consciences as Guides of the Church, will not suffer them to take other Measures, than what will agree with their Characters. To which End, it would be happy for *Christendom*, if all *Christian* Kings and Princes were as well inclined to the Episcopal Order, as sometime a Celebrated Monarch of our Nation was in countenancing a Great Prelate under

under him in the Discharge of his Spiritual Authority. Let My Lord of Canterbury know, says the King, that if any Bishop, Earl, or other Great Person, yea if my own Son should presume to oppose or hinder him from performing what in Conscience he thinks himself oblig'd to do; such a one shall find, that I will be as Severe a Prosecutor and Revenger of that Contempt, as I would be against Treason committed against my Crown and Dignity.

When Spiritual Persons have Civil Authority, they keep their Profession from being invaded and run down by Wicked Men, where Religion and Conscience will not prevail.

But however necessary our Ancestors thought this Power to defend Religion, and support the Sacred Ministry from any Violation of the Rude and Unpolished; yet some will not allow Bishops to be concerned in Civil Offices. To this purpose they alledge that our Saviour said, *His Kingdom was not of this World*, and therefore He refused to act like a King, in giving judgment in a Criminal Cause of Adultery, and in a Civil, about dividing an Inheritance. Now Christ said His Kingdom was not of this World, to convince the Jews of their Error, who expected His Appearance to be like the State and Grandeur of a Monarch; and therefore shew'd that to be a Temporal

ral King was not the Office of the Messias : And refused to concern Himself in Acts of Civil Judgment ; because He was a Person of a mean Calling, and had no such Authority in the Commonwealth ; but did not refuse to do it with Design to make a difference between Civil and Ecclesiastical Power.

*Others alledge, that the Apostle taught that Soldiers should not entangle themselves in the Affairs of this Life : And the Good Soldiers of Christ ought to follow the Example of Christ.* By which is meant, that Soldiers should not be Overcurious, or affect too great a Tenderness in their manner of Living ; but inure themselves to be Hardy, and to endure Wants and Wounds with such a Fortitude and Courage, as may please the Commanders under whom they Serve, and in this the Soldiers of Christ will imitate them, whensoever they are lawfully call'd to it.

They further Object there are several Ancient Canons and Councils, which prohibit the Clergy from executing any Secular Offices.

Now these being human Laws, and not Laws of God and Nature, which are immutable, may be alter'd and chang'd, as Time administers Occasion. Which being the Case before us, it necessarily follows, that those Ancient Canons and Constitutions

tions ought not to be produced, as a Rule for the Church's observation to Perpetuity : For then no Ecclesiastical Person can be a Guardian to Children, nor a Bishop be capable of making a Will. Nor are we in the second Place, to give a Reason why these Laws were repealed when 'tis not contrary to Reason, they should be made void : As in the case of *Eli*, who was both a Priest and a Temporal Judge, and that after the Jews return from Captivity, *Esdras* also, at the same Time, was both Priest, and their Chief Governor in the Administration of Secular Affairs. And therefore no Proof can be brought against the Clergy's being employ'd in Civil Offices either from Scripture or Ecclesiastical History.

Nor indeed can there any Reason be offer'd against it ; For tho' some will argue, that the Clergy have Business enough of their own *Quatenus Divines*, yet this is no real, tho' a plausible Objection and what carries a Colour of Truth along with it. For they who have been employ'd by the Government were generally, if not always Bishops ; and they have so many Officials, Arch-Deacons, Deans, Sub-Deans, and Rural-Deans, &c. under them, as continual Residence upon their Dioceses is no more absolutely necessary, than for the Chief General of the Army to be always

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in *Flanders* in the Winter Season: And tho' we may think that this does hinder their Spiritual Busines, yet their Attendance of Bishops at Parliament which takes up almost half the Time, is not look'd upon as any Prejudice to their Ministerial Function. If then any of the Prelates, for their great Parts and Ingenuity, are qualified to serve the Nation in a double Capacity, and her Majesty for good Reasons shall call them into the Civil Service of the Government, I can see no unreasonableness in it; especially since the Clergy have acquitted themselves, as Men of Knowledge, Honour, and Conscience, Loyalty to their Prince, and Fidelity to their Country.

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THE Dignity and Honour of the Clergy, Represented in an Historical Collection, shewing how useful and Serviceable the Clergy have been to this Nation by their Universal Learning, Acts of Charity and the Administration of Civil Offices, wherein an Account is given of Books publish'd by them in the Learned Languages and Sciences; of Churches, Colleges, Schools, &c, Founded at their Charge, and what Offices of State they have Born, and how well they have Acquitted themselves in them. By JOHN GROOM, Vicar of Childderditch in *Essex*, and Chaplain to the Right Honourable Robert Earl of Holderness. London Printed for J Wyat at the Rose and D. Midwinter at the Three Crowns in St. Pauls Church Yard. 1710.